THE MINISTER OF STATE OB THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Extension in delivery period with imposition of liquidaetd damages nasi been granted up to 15-4.93 in respect of each of the three orders referred to in part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 1370 dated 22.7.92.

(b) The rates authorised to P.J. Pipes against these three orders are still economical compared to the rat es received against tenders finanlis-ed in November,, 1992 for similar pipes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Advances outstanding against 3 orders for which extension was gran ted is Rs. 70,34,613 and interest of Rs. 14,60,369 as on 28.2.1993.

(e) Advances with interest are recovered from the invoices against supplies mude from time to time. For these advances bank guarantees are also available which can be invoked in case further supplies are not made.

Extension of service of officials in ONGC and GAIL

4263. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of PET-ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Statesman', Delhi dated the 11th March, 1993 under the caption "For services rendered..;'

(b) if so Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether extension of service of officials has been, granted;

(d) if so, the names of such officials in ONGC and GAIL; and

(e) what are the details of deimi-officials letters as mentioned in the said newsitem/write-up of the Statesman dated the 11th March, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF ST AT, OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM! AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes., Sir.

(b) to (d) Extension of service has not been granted to any official of ONGC/GAIL.

(e) The d.o. letter of 23.12.1989 had advised ONGC/GAIL/OIL not to give any further business to the con. sortium of firms that functioned in the name of M/s. Sumitomo Corporation.

Conversion of ONGC into Public Limited Company

4264. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOS-WAMI: SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move to convert the ONGC into a public limited com. pany would help the unit to achieve its crude production targets which may fall drastically this year necessi tating import of crude by spending hard cash; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The decision to convert ONGC into a public limited company • would enable ONGC to function more effi-ciently and give it flexibility to raise resources. This should eventually ein-table it to perform better to meet its production targets'.

Transportation of goods in South-Eastern railways

4265. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of targets fixed for passenger and goods transportation in S E, Railways during